

BIG CHURCH BODIES MEET THIS WEEK

Methodist Conference, Baptist
and Disciples Conventions.

TWO GATHER IN RICHMOND

Forecast of the Work of the Conference and Changes That Will Have to Be Made—Several Matters of Interest.

Beginning in a day or two and continuing through nearly a week, church circles will be alive with the transactions of three annual conventions, two of which will be held in this city. All three promise to be bright and interesting, and the attendance upon all will doubtless be quite large. Many matters of importance are up for discussion and settlement.

The Methodist Conference.

As early as Tuesday morning next delegates to the annual session of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will begin to arrive in the city. During the afternoon and evening of that day preliminary meetings of several committees will be held and more delegates will come in. The next morning still more delegates will arrive, all will report to the church, and the one hundred and twentieth meeting of the body will be on. For seven days it will sit, transacting such business as may come before it, and then about the Tuesday of next week it will adjourn for another year.

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Every indication points to a most successful meeting of the conference. It will be made up of three hundred and twenty-six delegates—two hundred and seventy-six clerical and fifty lay—besides these there will be a large number of visitors, swelling the total up to five or six hundred. To get this large body of people safely and comfortably into Richmond, or rather to arrange that this may be done, has been the work of the transportation agent, who happens this year to be the Rev. Herbert M. Hope, of this city. Mr. Hope, who has accomplished a task well, announces the following results: As will be observed from the announcement following, I have arranged with the railroad lines for the sale of tickets to ministers, delegates and visitors on November 11th, 12th and 13th, good until November 25th.

The Southern Atlantic Coast Line, Seaboard Air Line, Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, Washington-Southern and Norfolk and Western will allow a rate of four (4) cents per mile one way for the round trip, in the sale of tickets to all points within the State to Richmond, Va., on account of the meeting of the Virginia Annual Conference.

The N. Y., P. & N. Railroad will allow a rate of two and one-half cents per mile for distance traveled by those using card orders, which may be obtained from Rev. W. P. Wright, Capeville, Va. Tickets on sale November 11th, 12th and 13th; final limit November 25th. Continuous passage in each direction.

The Norfolk and Southern will give one-half rate from Norfolk, returning, upon presentation of certificate signed by the secretary of the conference, showing attendance.

Those who travel by the Weems Steamboat Line and pay full fare to Fredericksburg will be returned free to the point from which they pay.

The Virginia Navigation Company will sell round trip tickets for one fare. Tickets for sale on November 11th, 12th and 13th; good until November 25th.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway has adopted a rate of one and one-third fare—full fare one way and certificate from selling agent, which, when countersigned by Rev. Herbert M. Hope, entitles the holder to return ticket at one-third fare. From Norfolk and Lynchburg round trip tickets will be sold.

Once here the delegates will be assigned to homes in private families, or at the hotels. Local committees have been at work for weeks getting everything arranged in this particular, and not until late yesterday was the task complete. The job was a big one, but it was finally disposed of successfully. When the visitors begin to come in now they will find ready prepared for them homes at which they will stay during the conference. Bishop Duncan will be the guest of Mr. John P. Branch.

PRELIMINARY MEETINGS.

As stated above, preliminary meetings of conference committees will be held on Tuesday, by which time some fifty or seventy-five delegates will be in the city. Most of these will be those who have to stand examinations. They will appear before committees, which have been called to meet as follows:

Committee for Examination of Candidates for Admission—Stewards' room of Centenary Church, at 7:30 P. M.

Committee and Class of the First Year—Stewards' room of Broad-Street Church, at 8 P. M.

Committee and Class of the Second Year—

Bible class room of Centenary, at 7:30 P. M.

Committee and Class of the Third Year—Primary room of Broad-Street, at 7:30 P. M.

Committee and Class of the Fourth Year—Broad-Street Church, at 8 P. M.

THE CONFERENCE PROPER.

On the morning of the next day, Wednesday, the conference proper will begin. The meeting place will be the Broad-Street Church, and the presiding officer is Bishop W. W. Duncan, of Mississippi, distinguished for his parliamentary ability. The preliminaries will be gotten through with in short order, and then the conference will settle down to strict business. There is no programme other than the regular order of work adopted at every meeting. Committees will be appointed, minute questions will be propounded, reports will be received, and sandwiched in between will be those special matters which often constitute the most interesting features of the sessions. The routine is expected and anticipated; the special developments are unexpected and possess the charm of novelty.

CHANGES AMONG MINISTERS.

One of the last things the conference will do will be to announce the arrangements of the ministerial circuits for the coming year. This always comes as a grand climax, since it is after all undoubtedly the most generally interesting feature of every meeting of the body. During the sessions of the conference a large portion of the spare time of the delegates will be taken up with guessing at what this announcement will mean for them.

Of the various guesses already being made, but few are mentioned here for obvious reasons. They number legion, and they are after all so utterly worthless that, apart from the gossip nature, they hardly justify the expenditure of energy and space in getting them down on paper. The present conference, according to all accounts, will be one of few changes. Throughout the State there are only about sixteen ministers who have served terms of four years and who will have to move. Among these sixteen are four presiding elders. The full list is as follows:

Committee and Class for Admission on Trial—the stewards' room of Centenary Church.

Committee and Class of First Year—Stewards' room at Broad Street Church.

Committee and Class of Second Year—the ladies' parlor of Centenary Church.

Committee and Class of Third Year—

kin's; Rev. W. G. Bates, of Keller; and Rev. J. D. Hosier, of Pocomoke.

The case of the presiding elders will be one of paramount interest. Two or three of them have served many years, and it is now a live question whether or not they will step aside and give others a chance. Many feel that they ought, while it is undoubtedly a fact that some others believe that an experienced presiding officer is the proper kind of one to have. One other matter has caused somewhat of a stir, though it will probably not develop into anything at the conference for obvious reasons. The Rev. R. D. Smart, who has been transferred from the St. Louis conference, is to succeed Bishop Smith at Epworth, Norfolk, and many of the preachers, and the laymen as well, feel that it was unnecessary to bring in a man from the outside and give him this important charge when there is such good material in the Virginia Conference already.

Various rumors of changes, other than those which must occur, have been printed from time to time. The one which chiefly concerns Richmond, and the only one mentioned here, is that to the effect that the Rev. Dr. J. Powell Garland, presiding elder of the Richmond District, will go to Portsmouth to take the place of the Rev. W. C. Vaden, who will come to Richmond. This rumor has been persistent, and really appears to have some foundation. Among other necessary changes will be the election of four new boards: The Joint Board of Finance, of which the Rev. B. F. Lipcomb is now the chairman; the Board of Missions, of which the Rev. W. E. Edwards is the president; the Board of Education, of which Bishop Coke Smith has been president; and the Epworth League Board, of which the Rev. E. H. Rawlings is the chairman.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The opening sermon of the conference will be preached by the Rev. S. C. Hatcher, with the Rev. W. Ashby Christian as alternate. The sermon before the ordination of elders will be preached by the Rev. Joseph H. Ames, with the Rev. Dr. W. G. Bates as alternate.

The places of meeting for the various committees have been arranged for as follows:

Committee and Class for Admission on Trial—the stewards' room of Centenary Church.

Committee and Class of First Year—Stewards' room at Broad Street Church.

Committee and Class of Second Year—the ladies' parlor of Centenary Church.

Committee and Class of Third Year—



BISHOP W. W. DUNCAN,

Who will preside over the Virginia Conference.

follows: Rev. J. H. Amis, of Rappahannock District; Rev. Paul Whitehead, D. D., presiding elder of Lynchburg District; Rev. W. C. Vaden, presiding elder of Portsmouth District; William E. Jenkins, presiding elder of Norfolk and Eastern Shore District; and Rev. E. A. Potts, of Highland Park; Rev. C. R. James, of Whitestone; Rev. J. W. S. Robbins, of Bethany; Rev. D. G. C. Butts, of Gloucester; Rev. J. W. Stiff, of Memorial Church, Lynchburg; Rev. J. B. Wynn, of Boynton; Rev. W. L. Geyer, of West Street Church, Petersburg; Rev. W. L. Murphy, of South Hill; Rev. W. R. Crowder, of Denby's; Rev. M. C. Colonna, Sr., of Benn's; Rev. T. O. Edwards, of Boy-

the primary room at Broad Street Church.

Committee and Class of Fourth Year—Epworth League room, Broad Street Church.

Board of Missions—Epworth League room, Broad Street Church.

Board of Education—ladies' parlor, Centenary Church.

Board of Church Extension—stewards' room, Broad Street Church.

Epworth League Board—room adjoining Epworth League room, Broad Street Church.

Committee on Publishing Interests—pastor's study, Centenary Church.

SIDE ISSUES.

By way of special entertainment, several outside matters will be introduced. The conference will be taken on a visit to the Orphanage, and will be shown the varied objects of interest there. Then there is also a possibility of a trip to Ashland and to Randolph-Macon college, which the conference has not visited for a number of years. On the Sunday during conference week nearly every pulpit in the city will be filled by the visitors. Arrangements are already being made for this wholesale invasion of the Richmond pulpits.

The Baptist Association.

All the indications point to a great delegation to the Baptist General Association at Norfolk. The sessions open Thursday morning. Some of the delegates leave Wednesday, but the bulk of them from this region will probably leave by the 9 A. M. train over the Chesapeake and Ohio Thursday morning. As already noted, in The Times, the items of chief interest will be the report of the Education Commission, the question of a successor to Rev. C. J. Thompson, field secretary of the State Mission Board, and the probable action of the body on the Mann bill, now pending in the Legislature, for the regulation of the liquor traffic. This last is almost surely come before the body in some form and is likely to provoke a spirited debate.

The introductory sermon will be preached by Rev. E. W. Winfrey, D. D., of Culpeper. It is not unlikely that the body will be asked to take substantial action touching the movement to raise \$12,000 before the close of the year for the Bristol school, known now as the Virginia Institute. There are a ways several public collections taken in a tie annual gatherings. Indeed, the sessions would be regarded as incomplete without at least two or three of them. Churches engaged in building houses of worship frequently send representatives, expecting to get up a hundred or two to help them on a steep pace in the hour. The responses are almost always generous. This year it is understood that the Blackstone Baptists, who are striving to build a house of worship suited to the needs of that important community, will have the right of way, though other similar worthy causes will not be overlooked.

WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION.

In the polity of the Baptists the General Association has no ecclesiastical power.



RER. DR. CAREY E. MORGAN,

In whose church the Disciples' Convention meets.

sition or authority. It cannot legislate for the churches. Its mission is to canvass and through its committees and boards to conduct certain common work in which the churches are all interested. This work is of three kinds: missionary, educational and benevolent. The boards who are concerned with missionary work in Virginia are the Foreign Mission Board at Norfolk, with Rev. W. F. Fisher as president; the Home Mission Board at Lynchburg, with C. B. Felt, Esq., corresponding secretary; the State Mission Board in Richmond, with George Cooper, D. D., as president, and William E. Johnson, Esq., and Rev. C. J. Thompson as secretaries; and the Sunday-school Board at Richmond, with Dr. J. M. H. W. Batts as president and Dr. J. M. H. W. Batts as corresponding secretary. In the matter of education, the Association has the Education Board, located in Richmond. This Board has in charge the work of helping young men who are the president of the Board of Education, of College and at the Seminary. Dr. C. S. Gardner is president and Mr. J. T. Elyson is completing his twenty-seventh year of continuous service as secretary. This, by the way, makes him the senior secretary in length of service. The body has also a standing committee on General Education, and last year a permanent Education Commission. There are two branches of benevolent work engaged in by the body—the care of aged and infirm ministers and of the families of deceased ministers, and the care of the orphans. Mr. T. H. Elett, of Richmond, is president of the Ministers' Relief Fund and Dr. W. E. Hatcher is president of the Board of Trustees of the Orphanage, who manage the great institution at Salem. Of this, Rev. George J. Hobday is superintendent.

The Disciples' Convention.

The twenty-seventh annual convention of the Virginia Christian Missionary Society will be held in the Seventh Street Christian Church, in this city, November 11-14, 1902.

The first annual meeting of this body was held in this city twenty-seven years since. At that time the attendance was small, and the work not very promising. Those who were leading the work were men of strong faith, who knew no discouragement.

Slowly, but surely, the organization has forged its way until it has grown to be a great power in this brotherhood in Virginia, and very highly spoken of as a model organization in other States.

In these twenty-seven years a large number of churches in various sections of the State have been aided by this society. Among the number are the flourishing congregations in Norfolk, Newport News, Danville, Charlottesville, Roanoke, and others of like promise and influence.

This year the society has employed all or part of the time of nineteen men. It will report nearly 1,200 conversions and a large outpouring from the churches.

The society will close this year with a good balance in its treasury and start on the new year full of hope and confidence.

The programme for the coming convention has been carefully prepared, and will prove helpful and instructive. Aside from the well known Virginia men who will occupy places on the programme, there will be several speakers from other States.

Among those who are to be here next

week are the following speakers, each of whom has a national reputation in this growing brotherhood: Dr. A. B. Phillips, pastor of a large and influential congregation of the Disciples of Christ in Augusta, Ga., will speak on Tuesday night; Mr. Phillips is a pleasing speaker. His voice is frequently heard in the national conventions.

Dr. F. M. Rains, of Cincinnati, O., who has been for years secretary of the Foreign Missionary Society of the Disciples of Christ, will speak on Wednesday night. Dr. Rains has made a tour of all the foreign mission fields in the world, and is therefore thoroughly equipped in that line. He is, however, very familiar with State work also, and being a speaker of unusual power, will greatly delight all who hear him.

Dr. F. D. Power, who has been for twenty-eight years pastor of one of the

Christian churches in Washington city, will speak twice on Tuesday, and again on Thursday night. Dr. Power is a Virginian and has spoken frequently in Richmond. The mere mention of his name on a programme is a sufficient guarantee to all who have heard him of the character of the address that will follow. Dr. Power will deliver his lecture on "Blockheads" at the Third Christian Church on Monday night, November 10th.

A large number of delegates will be present, and a great convention is expected. The reports will be inspiring, the music good, and the speaking of the very highest order. This should be the best convention held by the people in Virginia. No effort has been spared to bring about this desirable end.

Tuesday, November 11, 1902—Preachers' Day.

MORNING SESSION.

9:30—Prayer and praise service, F. F. Phillips.

10:00—President's address, W. J. Cooke.

10:30—Sermon.

11:00—Address, "Ministerial Courtesy," H. P. Atkins.

11:30—"My Twenty-five Years' Pastorate," F. W. Power.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2:30—Prayer and praise service, Bernard P. Smith.

3:00—Address.

3:30—"Paul's Portraiture of a Preacher," F. W. Power.

4:15—Business session.

5:00—Adjournment.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

7:45—Devotional service, D. S. Rhodes.

8:00—Address, A. B. Phillips.

8:45—Appointment of committees; announcements; adjournment, with benediction.

WEDNESDAY A. M.

9:00—Quiet hour service, J. D. Hamaker.

9:30—Greetings from Richmond pastors.

10:00—Reply to greetings, L. A. Cutler.

10:30—Report of State Board.

11:45—Address, "Our Duty to Virginia," Robert E. Elmore.

11:00—Address, "The Evangelistic Spirit in the Apostolic Church," J. A. Spencer.

11:30—How to arouse interest in State missions in local churches, J. R. Glenn.

11:50—Sermon or address, D. S. Henkel.

12:30—Adjournment.

WEDNESDAY P. M.

2:00—Devotional exercises, W. L. Harris.

2:30—"The Problems of the Country Churches," led by C. P. Williamson.

3:30—Address to Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, to be supplied.

4:20—Adjournment, with benediction.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

7:45—Devotional service, J. T. T. Hundley.

8:15—Address, F. M. Rains.

9:00—Benediction.

THURSDAY A. M.

9:00—Quiet hour service, Richard Bagby.

9:30—Reports from field, W. J. Hall, I. Chestnut, H. D. Coffey, D. S. Henkel, C. E. Elmore, D. M. Austin, J. A. Campbell, M. J. Ross, J. R. Glenn, C. O. Woodward, J. M. Thomas, R. W. Lilley and others.

10:30—Address, "How to Increase the Evangelistic Spirit in Virginia," Stephen Norton.

10:40—Address, "Virginia's Needs," C. Woodward.

11:10—How to Hold a Successful Meeting, H. D. Coffey.

11:30—The Gospel for Virginia, J. A. Campbell.

11:50—Virginia's Needs, C. O. Woodward.

12:05—"A Business Man's View of State Missions," J. R. McWane.

12:30—Adjournment, with benediction.

THURSDAY P. M.

2:00—Devotional service, C. E. Elmore.

2:30—Reports of committees.

3:30—Sunday-school session, led by E. P. Smith. Report of State superintendent, B. P. Smith.

4:45—Address, "Reverence in Sunday-school," Richard Bagby.

5:00—Importance of the Sunday-school, F. Burdard.

5:20—How to have a good Sunday-school, R. F. Johnson.

5:50—Round table on Sunday-school work.

4:15—Miscellaneous business.

4:30—Adjournment, with benediction.

THURSDAY NIGHT.

7:45—Devotional service, A. J. Renforth.

8:15—Address, F. D. Power.

Adjournment.

LONDON SOCIETY MISSES AMERICAN HOSTESSES

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

LONDON, November 8.—Despite the fact that Parliament is sitting, London is extraordinarily dull socially. Few balls or large dinners are given. The famous entertainers are doing nothing, comparatively. More money is spent on dinners, balls and suppers in New York in one week than in London in a month. Society is "hard up" because of the dullness of trade, decreasing rent rolls and the burden of war taxes.

Hostesses who formerly gave dinners to forty or sixty guests now invite ten or a dozen, while, because of the exodus to the Durbar of those American hostesses who usually entertain lavishly, little American money is being spent this winter.

The Choates will do but little entertaining and have gone to the Riviera to spend three months. Society will also miss Mrs. Mackay's splendid winter functions at Chesterton House Terrace, where she always dispensed generous hospitality.

Mrs. Carleton's cotillion met at North-side Hall on Friday night and was very much enjoyed by all present. Admission by card only.

ALL THE WEEK

Our special sale of Honest-Made Clothing will last.

Our advertisement last Friday was taken advantage of yesterday because we were very busy selling

Suits at Special Prices

\$12.50 & \$15.00

that sell at other stores all the way up to \$20.00.

WE DEFY COMPETITION.

Star Clothing House

CORNER FIFTH AND MAIN STREETS

T-M-B-O-D. FRANK & SON, Prop. SUNDAY CLOSING

MASCULE OUTFITTERS.

THE GLOUCESTER LITERARY SOCIETY

Officers Elected and Programme Laid Out for the Winter.

GLOUCESTER C. H. VA., Nov. 8.—

Special.—The Gloucester Literary Society met at the Rectory on Friday and elected the following officers: Rev. W. H. Groves, president; Prof. John Tabb, of Gloucester Academy, vice-president; Mr. M. E. Bristow, secretary; Rev. W. B. Lee and L. C. Catlett, county historiographers. Milton and his contemporaries will be studied by the Society this season. Miss Lucie Watkins, of Charlottesville, will prepare a paper on the works and styles of Milton for the next meeting and Prof. Calkins of Gloucester Academy, on "The man and the period." The evening will close with a debate on the question "The combination of Capital is helpful." Messrs. H. W. B. Williams and M. E. Bristow in the affirmative, and T. G. Hamerick and W. Ellis Reed, negative.

The Society had the pleasure of hearing of new chapters of the new book which Lieut. Dr. G. C. Butts is writing.

The Rev. Dr. G. C. Butts preached his last sermon at Belamy M. E. Church, on Sunday. Not only his own people but the county people at large, part with Mr. Butts with great regret. His pastorate has been most successful and he will leave hosts of well wishers in Gloucester.

There are a number of dinners and teas being given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Porritt and Misses Emma Beckwith and Sallie Williams.

If the Times photographer could get a view of Gloucester just now, he would be inspired to write a poem on an Autumn in Tidewater Virginia. The forests are all a-glow, the dark green of the pines and cedar make a grand background for the gorgeous reds, browns, yellows and oranges of the other trees. "Eden Summer lingers near the charm." The sound of the gun is heard in the land. Wild turkeys and partridges (not quail) are most plentiful and the gunners return in the evenings "heavy laden" and quite ready for the fat oysters which are also unusually abundant this fall.

"There is no place" like Gloucester! Mr. J. T. Anderson and family have

returned to Richmond to the regret of many warm friends.

Mrs. Gerard Hopkins has returned from Maryland.

Mrs. Ulrich Sutton and Messrs. John Janney Joseph, of Moore, and Hills Robinson, all of Maryland, at at "Roaring Springs," guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. Janney.

Misses Emma Beckwith and Sallie Williams are at Carysbrook, guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cary.

Mr. Willie Dabney, of New York, spent part of this week at "The Exchange," his old home.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Dabney have returned from Great Barrington, Mass., and are in their new home on the North River.

Rev. W. B. Lee was in Richmond on Monday.

Mrs. B. Cary, of Zanesville, O., is visiting her sister, Mrs. Lewis Thurston.

Miss Leah Tallafiero is visiting Prof. Warner Tallafiero, in Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Landers have returned from Richmond.

Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Jones and Miss Ida Jones have returned from Fauquier.

Mrs. Horace Jones is at Enfield, guests of Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Jones.

Mrs. Phillip Tallafiero and Miss Evelyn McCandless have gone to Baltimore for the winter.

Miss Lou Seawell is in Richmond, visiting her sister, Miss Molly Elliot Seawell.

Miss Louie Watkins, of Charlotte Courthouse, spent part of the week at the Rectory.

Miss Galloway was a guest of Mrs. W. H. Groves.